Embargo: Only to be published or disseminated at 1200 hour, Friday, 24 April 2026

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC INDICATORS
LEADING, COINCIDENT & LAGGING INDEXES FEBRUARY 2026

Malaysia's economy is expected to expand at a moderate pace, with the Leading Index recording 0.5 per cent in February 2026

PUTRAJAYA, 24 APRIL 2026 – The annual growth of Malaysia's Leading Index (LI) remained positive, recording 0.5 per cent in February 2026, reaching 113.1 points as compared to 112.5 points in the same month of the previous year **(Exhibit I).** Further details on this performance are provided in the **Malaysian Economic Indicators: Leading, Coincident & Lagging Indices publication for February 2026**, released today by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The LI provides an early indication of turning points in the business cycle and the near-term direction of the economy.

Commenting further on the latest findings, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The Real Imports of Other Basic Precious & Other Non-ferrous Metals (18.7%) was the main contributor to this increase, followed by the Real Money Supply, M1 (8.4%). This improvement reflects trade activity and liquidity flows in the domestic economy that remained strong, in line with sustained demand in related sectors. Despite the increase, overall performance was also influenced by declines in several components, with five out of seven components recording contractions, notably the Number of Housing Units Approved (-22.2%). In terms of monthly performance, the LI edged down 0.3 per cent, due to moderation in several components, particularly the Real Imports of Semi Conductors and the Number of New Companies Registered, each of which decreased by 0.6 per cent."

The smoothed long-term trend of the LI in February 2026 remained below 100.0 points **(Exhibit II)**, reflecting moderate near-term economic growth, supported by resilient domestic fundamentals. Nevertheless, persistent geopolitical tensions, alongside fluctuations in global commodity and crude oil prices, could affect trade activity, although the overall impact is expected to remain contained.

In light of the current economic scenario, the Coincident Index (CI) saw a rise of 1.6 per cent with 129.4 points as compared to 127.4 points in the same month last year. This increase was contributed by almost all components except the Capacity

Utilisation in Manufacturing (-1.5%). However, on a monthly basis, the CI contracted by 1.4 per cent, reflecting slower performance in several components, particularly in the Real Contributions to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) (-0.6%). The softened momentum was supported by a more cautious approach among employers amid an uncertain economic environment, including cost pressures, labour market adjustments, as well as global uncertainties affecting the current economic momentum.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the **Economic Census 2026 (BE2026)**, with themed **"*Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat*"**. The sixth Economic Census, will be carried out from **5th January to 31st October 2026**. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive and structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation's economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the **top position** globally in the biennial **Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25** report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through https://open.dosm.gov.my.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
24 APRIL 2026

Exhibit I: Leading Composite Index

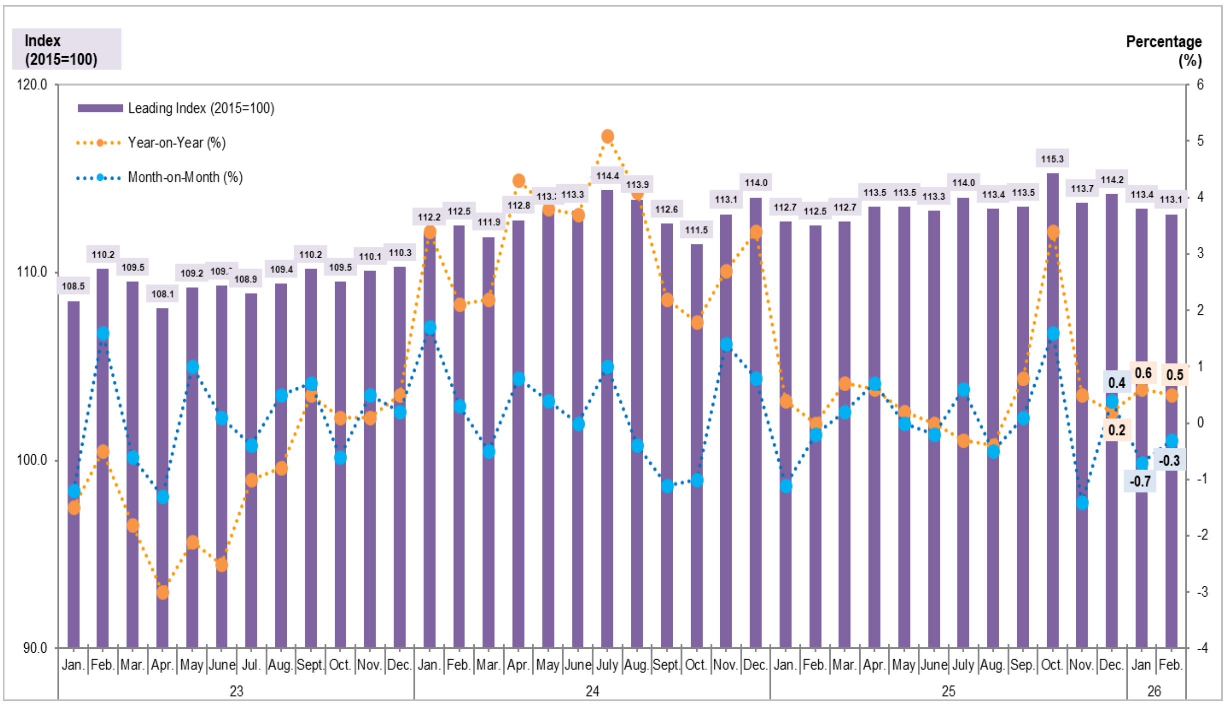

Exhibit II: Leading Composite Index (Long Term Trend = 100) and Business Cycle

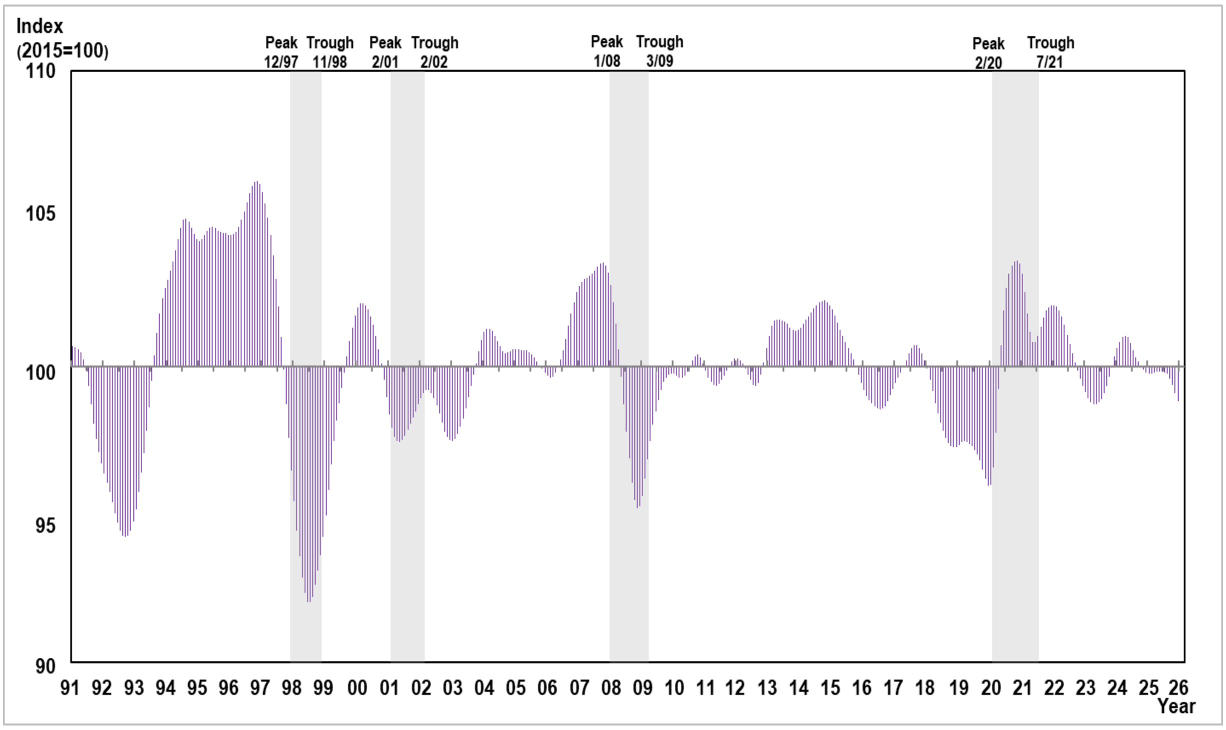

Exhibit III: Annual Changes of Leading Index Components